

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USLO PEKING

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

OSD/ISA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CH, MILI

SUBJECT: MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR UGANDAN AMBASSADOR'S WIFE

REF: PEKING 1941

1. REFTEL REQUESTS PROCEDURAL INFORMATION CONCERNING MEDICAL CARE FOR FOREIGN NATIONALS AT US MILITARY MEDICAL FACILITIES. GENERAL SITUATION IS THAT DUE TO ACUTE SHORTAGE OF MEDICAL PERSONNEL US MILITARY FACILITIES ARE SEVERELY STRAINED AND IN SOME INSTANCES PERSONS WHO ARE AUTHORIZED TREATMENT AT MILITARY HOSPITALS MUST BE REFERRED TO CIVILIAN MEDICAL CARE. THUS FOREIGN NATIONALS ARE PROVIDED MILITARY MEDICAL CARE ONLY WHEN IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO US FOREIGN POLICY INTERESTS TO DO SO AND THE NUMBER AUTHORIZED IS VERY SMALL. WHEN A POST BELIEVES IT HAS A CASE OF SUFFICIENT IMPORTANCE NORMAL PROCEDURE

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IS TO TRANSMIT A MESSAGE TO THE DEPARTMENT WHICH GIVES ALL

AVAILABLE MEDICAL DATA, DESCRIBES WHY ADEQUATE MEDICAL CARE CANNOT BE OBTAINED ELSEWHERE, INDICATES HOW THE PATIENT WILL BE TRANSPORTED TO AND FROM THE HOSPITAL AT NO COST TO USG, CITES THE INDIVIDUAL OR GOVERNMENT AGENCY WHICH WILL REIMBURSE THE MILITARY FOR MEDICAL SERVICES PROVIDED AND EXPLAINS IN DETAIL THE FOREIGN POLICY JUSTIFICATION FOR THE REQUEST. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THIS LAST ELEMENT INCLUDE THE AMBASSADOR'S PERSONAL RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL BASED ON US NATIONAL INTEREST. THE REQUEST IS THEN REVIEWED CAREFULLY BY THE DEPARTMENT AND DEFENSE AND IF CONSIDERED TO BE OF SUFFICIENT IMPORTANCE TO US NATIONAL INTEREST AUTHORIZATION MAY BE GRANTED. THE CRITERIA IS STRINGENT, THE WASHINGTON EVALUATION PURPOSELY CRITICAL AND THE NUMBER OF APPROVALS VERY LIMITED. EMERGENCY LIFE AND DEATH SITUATIONS ARE OF COURSE HANDLED MOST EXPEDITIOUSLY BUT THE SAME CRITERIA OF EXTREME IMPORTANCE TO US NATIONAL INTEREST STILL APPLY.

2. REFTEL ALSO MENTIONED THE POSSIBILITY OF A NUMBER OF REQUESTS FOR MEDICAL CARE AT US MILITARY FACILITIES IN JAPAN AFTER ESTABLISHMENT OF AIR SERVICE BETWEEN PEKING AND JAPAN. DEPARTMENT AND DEFENSE WOULD NOT WISH TO SEE ANY USE OF THESE FACILITIES THAT WAS NOT IN FULL ACCORD WITH THE ESTABLISHED CRITERIA.

3. DEPARTMENT HAS REVIEWED THE CASE OF MRS. MATOVU AS OUTLINED ABOVE AND REGRETFULLY CONCLUDED THAT THERE IS NOT SUFFICIENT US NATIONAL INTEREST INVOLVED TO WARRANT HOSPITALIZATION AT A US MILITARY MEDICAL FACILITY. KISSINGER

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